DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 428 557 FL 025 756

AUTHOR	Romaine, Suzanne, Ed.
TITLE	The Cambridge History of the English Language. Volume IV: 1776-1997.
ISBN	ISBN-0-521-26477-4
PUB DATE	1998-00-00
NOTE	800p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Cambridge University Press, 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211; Tel: 800-872-7423 (Toll Free); Web site: http://www.cup.org ($125).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Historical Materials (060)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Contrastive Linguistics; Cultural Context; *Diachronic Linguistics; *English; English Literature; Foreign Countries; Geographic Distribution; Grammar; *Language Patterns; *Language Role; Language Usage; *Language Variation; *North American English; Onomastics; Phonology; Syntax; Vocabulary
IDENTIFIERS	*English (British)

ABSTRACT

The volume, which is part of a series providing a full account of the history of the English language, details the history of English from 1776 to 1997. An extensive introduction explains the changing socio-historic setting in which English has developed in response to a continuing background of diversity as it was transplanted to North America and beyond. Separate chapters on vocabulary, syntax, onomastics, phonology, English grammar and usage, and literary language chronicle the linguistic features of the language during this period, using as its basis the common core inherited from the sixteenth century and shared by what are now the two principal varieties, American and British English. A glossary, extensive bibliography, and subject index are included. (MSE)

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